

Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of Kubo Kiyoshi et al. With regard to independent claim 18, the Examiner states that Baker discloses “a system comprising: a camera-mountable optical transceiver 24...for transmitting a downstream optical signal...and for receiving an upstream optical signal...; a remote optical transceiver 22...for transmitting the upstream optical signal...and for receiving the downstream optical signal...; a fiber optic cable 30...coupled between the camera-mountable optical transceiver 24 and the remote transceiver 22...for carrying the downstream...and upstream...optical signals.”

The Examiner notes that Baker does not disclose a connector for coupling the fiber optic cable directly to the transceiver. The Examiner relies on Kiyoshi as teaching a camera that is coupled to an optical transceiver by an optical fiber through optical connectors. The Examiner further states that it would have been obvious to incorporate Kiyoshi's connector that couples an optical fiber directly to a transceiver, such as connectors 20 or 25, for connecting Baker's fiber 30 to transceiver unit 22 to provide a coupling and transmission of an optical signal.

In response, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Kiyoshi does not disclose a connector that couples an optical fiber directly to a transceiver. Kiyoshi teaches a connector that couples an optical fiber to an optical transmitter not a transceiver. Kiyoshi's transmitter and receiver are separate components as evidenced by the fact that Kiyoshi does not show or describe the connection between the optical fiber and a receiver. Kiyoshi's connector simply connects between an optical fiber and a transmitter without also combining the function of connecting between the optical fiber and the receiver through the same connector.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-14, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desmons in view of Kiyoshi et al.. Specifically, the Examiner states that Desmons discloses a transceiver for providing an interface between a camera 10 and a fiber optic cable 1 that comprises a transmitter 11 for coupling between the camera and the fiber optic cable and adapted for converting an electrical information input signal received from the camera to an optical output signal; a receiver for coupling between the fiber optic cable and the camera and adapted for converting an optical input signal received from the fiber cable to an electrical information output signal. The Examiner states that Desmons does not disclose a housing for holding the transmitter and the receiver and adapted for mounting the camera and Desmons does not disclose a connector for coupling the fiber optic cable directly to the transceiver. Similarly, the Examiner relies on Kiyoshi for teaching such a coupling. In response, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. As pointed out above by the Applicant, Kiyoshi does not disclose such a coupling.

The Examiner also rejected claims 2 and 15-16 as being unpatentable over Desmons (2), in view of Kiyoshi and in further view of Bennett or Hurwitz. In response, the Applicant offers the following additional remarks with regard to these references. Desmons teaches away from the claimed invention because Desmons' requires remote power sources. For example, Desmons expressly utilizes triaxial cables that are one of the problems or concerns with the prior art that the subject invention overcomes. Kiyoshi also teaches away from the subject invention by employing separate transmitters and receivers.

“A prior art reference may be considered to teach away from an invention when a person of ordinary skill, upon reading a reference, would be discouraged from following the path set out in the reference, or would be led in a direction divergent from the path that was taken by the

applicant.” Monarch Knitting Machinery Corp. v. Sulzer Morat GmbH, 45 U.S.P.Q.2d 1977, 1984 (Fed. Cir. 1998). References that teach away from the modifying the prior art cannot create a prima facie case of obviousness. McGinley v. Franklin Sports, Inc., 60 U.S.P.Q.2d 1001, 1009 (Fed. Cir. 2001), citing, In re Gurley, 27 F.3d 551, 553, 31 U.S.P.Q.2d 1131, 1132 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of Kubo Kiyoshi et al. and in further view of Bennett or Hurwitz. The Examiner states that Baker further teaches that the transceiver is connected to a power source. The Examiner further states that “[a]s to the housing for the optical transceiver, it is obvious that camera interface unit 24 of Baker can be housed in a housing for reasons of safety, protection and isolation. Yet, the Examiner noted that the combination of Baker and Kiyoshi further differs from the subject invention because neither reference discloses a housing that includes a first plate on a first side of the housing for mounting to the camera and a second plate on a second side of the housing for mounting to a power source. Nevertheless, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious that such plates and/or connectors are needed and can be provided to connect the transceiver, the camera and the power source citing Bennett and Hurwitz as examples.

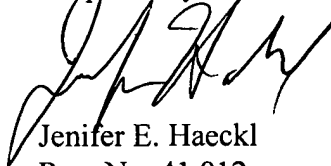
In response, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. For all the reasons noted previously in this Response, Baker and Kiyoshi do not disclose the subject invention and further teach away from the invention. With regard to the claimed housing, Kiyoshi clearly teaches away from the claimed invention because Kiyoshi’s components separately housed and Kiyoshi relies a plurality of cords to power and transmit/receiver signals rather than directly mounting a power source to the housing. As for Bennett, Bennett’s digital image capture system for photo identification cards is not an analogous reference. Bennett’s housing is a stationary device much

like a photo booth that is found in malls. Bennett does not disclose plates to mount a transceiver to a camera or to mount a power source to a transceiver. Bennett's plate 412 mounts the camera to the overall housing for the entire device. Bennett does not provide the plates that are recited in the subject claim 19. At column 4, lines 11-29, Bennett expressly discloses that the camera receiver power over power cable 438 which is interconnected to a 12 volt power source (not even shown) by power cable 90. Hurwitz does not provide the missing disclosure. Hurwitz does not teach a first plate and a second plate. The only plate disclosed by Hurwitz is an Anton-Bauer plate that is provide to make Hurwitz's camera battery integral with the camcorder. Hurwitz expressly discloses that Hurwitz transmitter module either receives power by tapping into the power system of the camera or by a completely separate battery. None of the references alone or in combination disclose the claimed invention.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned in Worcester, Massachusetts at (508) 791-8500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Haeckl', is written over the typed name.

Jenifer E. Haeckl
Reg. No. 41,812